

Hugh C. Slee House
Hill and Walnut Streets
Stoutsville
Monroe County
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1213

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69-STOUT,
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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

HUGH C. SLEE HOUSE

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Location: At the northeast corner of Hill and Walnut Streets, Stoutsville, Monroe County, Missouri, about 0.4 mile south of intersection of Walnut Street and U.S. Route 24.

USGS Stoutsville 7-1/2' Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 15.598060.4378040.

Present Owner: United States of America, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District (August 1978).

Present Use: Vacant. Located in the Clarence Cannon Dam and Reservoir Project Area.

Significance: Between the fall of 1878 and the summer of 1879 Hugh and Rachel Slee built a house, correctly speculating that they could sell it immediately to some new resident of Stoutsville, a growing railroad town. Dr. John R. Crosswhite, Jr. purchased the house in 1880, having just moved to town after graduating from Missouri Medical College in St. Louis. After Crosswhite, a number of locally prominent people owned the house, including John Watson and C.P. Kincaid, both merchants in the several decades around the turn of the century.

In its plan, the one-and-a-half-story dwelling represents a modification of the double-pen, central hall vernacular house type, while in its ornamentation, the house represents the lingering influence of the Gothic cottage, popularized a generation earlier.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1879-80.
2. Architect/builder: The house was built by Hugh and Rachael Slee, who had purchased seven out of twelve lots on the new

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Block Ten in Comb's Addition in Stoutsville (See HABS No. MO-1212). The Slees were speculating on the lots, some of which they bought for as little as six dollars, and on this house, which they built on Lot Seven.

3. Original and subsequent owners: The Hugh C. Slee House is located in Stoutsville, Missouri, Lot 7, Block 10. The following references are from the deed books in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Monroe County Courthouse, Paris, Missouri:

- 1878 Warranty Deed, July 12, 1878. Recorded in Book 9, page 486. Alexander and Sarah W. Tackett to Hugh and Rachael Slee. Lots 7 and 8 for \$45. (The two lots were assessed in 1879 for \$20.)
- 1880 Warranty Deed, August 16, 1880. Recorded in Book 12, page 432. Hugh and Rachael Slee to John R. Crosswhite. Lots 7 and 8, with a house on 7, for \$650. (Assessment in 1880 was \$250.)
- 1884 Warranty Deed, June 4, 1884. Recorded in Book 19, page 231. John R. Crosswhite to James F. Welch. Lot 7, with house, and Lot 8 for \$900.
- 1890 Warranty Deed, March 13, 1890. Recorded in Book 31, page 287. James F. Welch to John W. Watson. Lot 7, with house, for \$700.
- 1903 Warranty Deed, March 11, 1903. Recorded in Book 56, page 141. John W. Watson to Fannie Thompson. Lot 7, with house, for \$675.
- 1905 Warranty Deed, November 25, 1905. Recorded in book 60, page 9. Fannie and George W. Thompson to C.P. Kincaid. Lot 7, with house, for \$950.
- 1905- No record could be found for the transfer(s) from
1938 Kincaid to Walkup.
- 1938 Collector's Deed, November 22, 1938. Recorded in Book 99, page 433. James F. Hohimer (collector) to B.J. Dye. Lot 7, with house, for \$22. (The house was owned by Lockie A. Walkup, who owed delinquent taxes on the property from 1928-1935.)

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- 1963 Quitclaim Deed, April 1, 1963. recorded in Book 137, page 32. Harold J., Martha L. and Howard Dye to John C. and Jean V. Johnson, Jr. Lot 7, with house, for \$10.
- 1971 Warranty Deed, November 5, 1971. Recorded in Book 155, page 442. John C. and Jean V. Johnson to the United States of America. Lot 7, with house, for \$6270.

4. Original construction: The Slee House was constructed with a one-and-one-half-story front section facing south, with a one-story section at the rear (north). The first-floor east room in the main section was originally a parlor, but in later years this became a living room. Across the entry hall from the parlor was a room which has always been used as a bedroom. The two rooms on the second floor, reached by a stairway from the north room, were bedrooms. The one-story section at the rear contained a single kitchen/dining room, entered from the parlor/sitting room. The porch along the west side of this rear section was originally open. To the west of the porch was a rock-lined well.
5. Alterations and additions: The first addition to the house was a separate kitchen, built behind (to the north of) the original kitchen/dining room, which became then just a dining room. It is possible that this addition was constructed between 1903 and 1905, since the selling price of the house rose by \$275 in this interval. Bricks around the kitchen door indicate there was a terrace behind the house.

The next addition was a room to the north of the kitchen, whose use is unknown.

In the 1960s John Johnson removed the west wall of this last addition and extended the north wall to make a dirt-floored garage. A concrete slab, added before the Johnsons bought the house, extends into the garage and is part of the porch slab. The west porch was enclosed by Johnson in 1962. In 1963 Johnson partitioned the north end of this porch to make a bathroom, reached by a door from the kitchen. Other alterations by the Johnsons include: the use of plasterboard to patch the original plaster in the house (1961); the construction of a concrete curb around the well (1962); and the opening of a second access to the stairway, from the first-floor bedroom (1962).

Alterations made at undetermined dates include: the construction of closets in the second-floor bedrooms, the removal of the west chimney; and the replacement of the dining room floor joists at the north end of the room.

B. Historical Events and Persons Associated with the House:

Dr. John R. Crosswhite, Jr., the first physician in Stoutsville, was the first occupant of the Slee House. He arrived from St. Louis in 1880, after graduating from Missouri Medical College (merged with Washington University Medical School in 1899). The house was then the home of a series of the town's merchants. John W. Watson, who ran a drygoods store on Broadway, was a turn-of-the-century occupant. Also on Broadway was the hardware store of a slightly later owner, C.P. Kincaid.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: None located.

2. Bibliography:

a. Primary sources:

Dooley, Everett, Paris, Missouri. Personal interview, July 12, 1978. Mr. Dooley was a long-time resident of Stoutsville.

Gibbs, Mrs. Harold, Perry, Missouri. Telephone conversation, August 1, 1978. Mrs. Gibbs lived in the house next to the Slee House.

Johnson, John C., Stoutsville, Missouri. Telephone conversation, August 1, 1978. Mr. Johnson was the last owner of the house prior to the Corps of Engineers and provided all the dates for the later alterations and additions.

Loutenschlager, Mrs. Otto, Stoutsville, Missouri. Telephone conversation, August 2, 1978. Mrs. Loutenschlager identified the Slee House as the same one that Marshall refers to as the Kincaid House.

b. Secondary sources:

Marshall, Howard Wight. "The Concept of Folk Region in Missouri: The Case of Little Dixie," Ph.D. Dissertation, Indiana University, 1976.

Prepared by Travis C. McDonald
Architectural Historian
Historic American Buildings
Survey
July 1978

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The Hugh C. Slee House is a one-and-a-half-story frame structure with two rooms on each level and with a single-story wing. It is an example of a late nineteenth century house which shows the persistence of Gothic Revival features.
2. Condition of fabric: Fair to poor (interior extensively vandalized).

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Front section: 32'3" (five-bay front)
by 16'3".
Rear wing: 21'3" by 28'3".
Attached garage: 18'7" by 10'0".
2. Foundations: Dry-laid limestone rubble set in continuous low perimeter walls. The side porch is built upon a concrete slab.
3. Walls: Horizontal weatherboards (4-1/2" exposure) with plain corner boards cover all the exterior walls of the house except those on the shed garage. The walls on that section have 7-1/2" to 11-1/2"-wide vertical planks with corrugated metal sheets under the eaves.
4. Structural system: Lightweight balloon framing using milled oak lumber. The upper level in the front section has a second inside row of studs on the north and south sides to increase the wall height under the sloped ceiling. Studs, rafters and collar ties (which also serve as second-story ceiling joists) are 2 x 4s, 16" on center. First floor joists (front section) are 2 x 8s, 16" on center with mid-span cross-bridging. Second floor joists (front section) are 2 x 7s, 16" on center, with bridging. Floor joists (rear

section) are 2 x 8s, 20" on center, with bridging. Cut nails are used in the original section, wire nails in the later additions.

5. Porches: A single-story wood porch is centered on the south (front) elevation over the entrance. It has chamfered corner posts and pilasters, capped with molded square capitals and scroll-sawn brackets. It has a wood plank floor and a low-pitched shed roof, covered with asphalt sheets, which serves as a deck for the second floor level. A porch, enclosed with vertical boards and screeens, extends along the west side of the rear section.
6. Chimneys: Two interior end stove chimneys were centered in the gable ends of the front section. (The west one has been removed.) The one remaining is of brick without corbeling. A plain brick stove chimney is centered on the ridge of the rear section on the south wall of the kitchen.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Two doorways, one on each story, are centered on the front facade of the building. Both have three-pane sidelights with lower panels that have later been partially glazed. The upper door has a slightly peaked head with molded drip, the lower a four-light transom. A doorway with plain casing is located on the west wall of the rear section, leading to the enclosed porch. The west wall of the attached garage contains a pair of large vertical-plank doors. All exterior doors with the exception of the double doors in the garage have been removed.
 - b. Windows: There are four two-over-two, double hung windows on the first-floor level of the front facade, symmetrically spaced on either side of the door. Like the front doors, the windows have low-angle peaked heads with drip molds, plain-board frames and slip sills. Two six-over-six windows, located on the east wall of the rear wing, have the same type of frames, although somewhat shorter than those on the front. Two smaller casement windows are located in the east gable of the front section, one in the west gable. Other windows in the rear section are double hung, casement, and fixed sash, all with plain frames.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The front section of the house has a steeply-pitched gable roof which is intersected at the front by a steeply-pitched cross gable. This configuration, along with the cornice treatment, shows the influence of the Gothic cottage house type prevalent in Stoutsville and the surrounding area. The form and its variations (two cross gables and three cross gables being the more common) found such widespread acceptance in the region that it became a vernacular form.

The roofs over the rear wing are moderately pitched gables, and the roof over the rear section has been extended to the west by a lower-pitched shed roof. The earlier wood shingles on all surfaces have been covered by asphalt shingles.

- b. Cornices: Scroll-sawn bargeboards line both the raking and horizontal cornices of the front section. Behind these are plain soffits and frieze boards. The ends of the main and cross gables have turned finials. Roofs in the rear section all have plain soffits and frieze boards.
- c. Dormers: None.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The Slee House has a one-and-a-half-story front section, one room deep and two rooms wide. Each of these rooms is approximately 14' square. The house has a rear section forming an elongated T.

- a. Cellar: None.
- b. First floor: The front door leads to a small vestibule flanked to the east by a living room and to the west by a bedroom. A dining room in the original part of the rear section is entered from the living room. Behind the dining room is an added kitchen. Along the west side of these rooms is an enclosed porch, with bathroom. At the rear of the house is a garage.
- c. Second floor: A straight-run stair rises from the dining room in the rear section to a small square hall at the front of the house on the second floor. On either side of the hall are bedrooms, with added closets in the front corners against the hall.

2. Stairways: A single straight-run stair extends north-to-south from the dining room to the second-floor stair hall, which is situated over the vestibule. A second entrance to the stairway has been cut in the east wall of the downstairs west bedroom. The stair is constructed of milled oak boards. Beneath it is a small closet for the vestibule.
3. Flooring: Floorboards in the original part of the house are 5-1/4"-wide pine tongue-and-groove boards, blind nailed, and painted on the areas not covered by sheet linoleum.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Wall and ceiling surfaces throughout the house are generally plaster laid over sawn white pine lath and covered by patterned wallpaper. Plasterboard has been used in a number of locations to repair and/or replace the plaster.
5. Doorways and doors: Interior doorways and window frames in the front section all have low-angle peaked heads with molded casings. Those in the rear section have plain casings with flat heads. Most of the doors have been removed, although two molded four-panel doors remain.
6. Decorative features and trim: Vertical beaded boards form wainscots in the dining room and part of the garage. Wider plain horizontal boards form a wainscot in the kitchen. A 7-1/4" baseboard with an applied molding along the top lines the first-floor walls of the front section. 5-1/4" boards without a top molding are found in the second floor rooms.
7. Mechanical systems: The house has been serviced by electricity and, more recently, plumbing. All fixtures of both systems have been removed, however. Flues in the front section indicate that heating was by stoves in each room.

D. Description of Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The Slee House is located in the small town of Stoutsville, a community that grew up after 1871 along the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad. The house occupies a lot fifty feet wide at the northeast corner of Hill and Walnut Streets, one block north of Broadway, the main thoroughfare in town. Concrete sidewalks run along the south and west edges of the lot, with connecting walks leading to the front and side doors of the house. A rock-lined well is located a few feet to the west of the building.

2. Outbuildings: None remaining. A 1916 Sanborn Insurance Map indicates that a garage once stood in the northeast corner of the lot facing the alley which runs east-west down the center of the block. Another small building, perhaps a shed, was located in the back yard, between the garage and the house (See HABS No. MO-1212 for town plans).

Prepared by Clayton B. Fraser
Project Supervisor
Historic American Buildings
Survey
August 1978

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in cooperation with the St. Louis District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in compliance with Executive Order 11593, as a part of mitigation efforts connected with the construction of the Clarence Cannon Dam and Reservoir. HABS was engaged to document structures of cultural, historical, or architectural significance located within the Cannon Reservoir Project Area, in portions of Monroe and Ralls County, Missouri. The project was completed under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, Principal Architect. Recording was carried out during the summer of 1978 by Clayton B. Fraser, Project Supervisor; William T. Morgan (University of South Florida) and Travis C. McDonald (University of Virginia), Architectural Historians; Barbara A. Hendricks (University of Texas), Project Foreman; and Student Architects Dwight H. Burns (Texas Tech University), W. Michael Coppa (University of Virginia), Stephen H. Lauf (Temple University), and Michael K. Murdock (University of Texas). The data was edited in July 1979 by J.A. Chewning, Architectural Historian in the HABS Washington office. Photographs were taken by David J. Kaminsky in August 1978 and by William C. Haines between February and May 1979.